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Dated: October 7, 2004

Signature: Sharon Bizol

(Sharon Bizol)

Docket No.: 57113(46342)
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Shuji Hinuma et al.

Application No.: 10/069,228

Confirmation No.: 1875

Filed: February 21, 2002

Art Unit: 1647

For: SCREENING METHOD

Examiner: J.M. Lockard

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed September 13, 2004, applicant hereby provisionally elects Group I (claims 1 and 3) drawn to methods of screening ligands or compounds that promote or inhibit a function of an orphan receptor protein for continued examination, with traverse.

The Commissioner may require restriction if two or more independent and distinct inventions are claimed in a single application (37 CFR 1.142(a)).

If the Examiner is aware of another method to make the product as claimed, using a process which is materially different from that set forth in the restricted claims, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to substantiate his position in greater detail. Otherwise, it is respectfully requested that the restriction requirement be withdrawn, and that each of claims 1, 2 and 3 presently pending in this application be examined.

Dated: October 7, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By Kathryn A. Piffat, Ph.D.
Kathryn A. Piffat, Ph.D.

Registration No.: 34,901
EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP
P.O. Box 55874
Boston, Massachusetts 02205
(617) 439-4444
Attorney for Applicant